

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

- Teletype
- Facsimile
- Airtel

PRECEDENCE:

- Immediate
- Priority
- Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

- TOP SECRET
- SECRET
- CONFIDENTIAL
- E F T O
- CLEAR

007

Date 9/23/77

FM MEMPHIS (194-16) (P)

TO DIRECTOR ROUTINE

BT

E F T O

ERNEST COLUMBUS WITHERS, AGENT, ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE COMMISSION, STATE OF TENNESSEE; HOBBS ACT - CORRUPTION OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS.

b6
b7C

OO: ME.

[Redacted]

ADVISED SEPT. 13, 1977, SHE HAD BEEN

CONTACTED BY SUBJECT, [Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

AN INMATE AT FORT PILLOW STATE PRISON,

WOULD BE MOVED FROM THAT INSTITUTION TO A WORK RELEASE CENTER.

WITHERS ALSO TOLD HER THIS WOULD BE THE FIRST STEP IN GETTING

[Redacted]

RELEASED FROM PRISON IF SHE HAD ENOUGH MONEY TO SWING

THE DEAL.

AUSA DANIEL CLANCY, MEMPHIS, CONTACTED FOR A PRELIMINARY OPINION AND HE ADVISED THIS CASE WOULD FIT WITHIN THE GUIDELINES

CEH:wd
(1)

194-16-2

SEARCHED _____

SERIALIZED _____

INDEXED _____

FILED _____

Approved: [Signature]

Transmitted _____

(Number)

02282

(Time)

Per [Signature]

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OF THE HOBBS ACT - CORRUPTION OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS. AUSA CLANCY
 ALSO APPROVED RECORDING A TELEPHONE CONVERSATION BETWEEN
 [REDACTED] AND WITHERS.

ON SEPT. 13, 1977 [REDACTED] GAVE HER WRITTEN PERMISSION
 TO HAVE THE TELEPHONE CONVERSATION RECORDED. SHE SUBSEQUENTLY
 CALLED WITHERS AT HIS BUSINESS NUMBER AND RECORDED A CONVERSATION
 LASTING APPROXIMATELY 20 MINUTES. DURING THIS CONVERSATION,
 WITHERS REITERATED HIS PROMISE TO HAVE [REDACTED] MOVED TO A WORK
 RELEASE CENTER FOR \$2,000. HE ALSO INDICATED HE FELT CERTAIN
 THAT [REDACTED] COULD BE RELEASED AFTER HE HAD "ACQUIRED THE PROPER
 BACKGROUND." WITHERS WOULD NOT TELL [REDACTED] EXACTLY HOW MUCH
 IT WOULD COST TO GET [REDACTED] OUT OF PRISON BUT INDICATED IT WOULD
 BE AT LEAST \$12,000 TO \$16,000.

[REDACTED] WORKING WITH MEMPHIS OFFICE IN ATTEMPTING TO
 ARRANGE A MEETING WITH WITHERS TO COMPLETE THE NEGOTIATIONS
 FOR WITHERS' TRIP TO NASHVILLE.

ERNEST COLUMBUS WITHERS WAS FORMERLY DESIGNATED AS
 ME 338-R, [REDACTED]
 CAPTIONED "ERNEST COLUMBUS WITHERS; CI." THESE CASES WERE

b2
b7D

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CLOSED AS OF SEPTEMBER, 1976.

MEMPHIS, AT MEMPHIS, WILL MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH

REGARDING HER NEGOTIATIONS WITH SUBJECT.

BT

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